

## *Prayers and Blessings*

- 1) (*The Lord's Prayer*) Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our [debts] trespasses as we forgive [our debtors] those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- 2) (*Apache Blessing*) Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be a shelter for the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be a companion to the other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. Go now to your dwelling place to enter the days of your togetherness. May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years. May happiness be your company ion, and may your days together be good and long upon the earth.
- 3) May God bless you with Hope enough to keep sunshine in your love, and Fear enough to keep you holding hands in the dark. May God bless you with Unity enough to keep your roots entwined, and Separation enough to keep you reaching for each other. May God bless you with Harmony enough to keep romance in your song, and Discord enough to keep you tuning your love so it becomes sweet music to all who may hear it.
- 4) Oh Lord, our hearts are filled with joy on this wedding day, as (**GROOM**) and (**BRIDE**) come before You pledging their hearts and lives to one another. Grant that they may ever be true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding. Rid them of all pretense and jealousy. Help them to remember to be each other's sweetheart, helpmate, best friend, and guide, so together they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. May the home they are creating today truly be a place of love, peace, and harmony, where Your Spirit is always present. Bless this marriage we pray, and walk beside (**GROOM**) and (**BRIDE**) throughout their lives together. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.
- 5) (*Cherokee Prayer*) God in heaven above, please protect the ones we love. We honour all You created as we [they] pledge our [their] hearts and lives together. We honour mother-earth and ask for our [their] marriage to be abundant and grow stronger through the seasons. We honour wind and ask that we [they] sail through life safe and calm as in our [their] Father's arms. We honour water to clean and soothe our [their] relationship that it may never thirst for love. With all the forces of the universe You created, we pray for harmony and true happiness as we [they] forever grow young together. Amen. (*May be read by the couple or the Officiant*)

- 6) May all that you are, always be in love; and may all that is love, always be in you. May your love be as beautiful on each day you share as it is on this day of celebration. And may each day you share be as precious to you as the day you first fell in love. May you always see and encourage the best in each other. May the challenges life brings your way make your marriage even stronger. And may you always be each other's best friend and greatest love.
  
- 7) Our Heavenly Father, we ask Your blessing upon these two lives and the home they are establishing today. May the love they have for each other grow deeper and stronger because of their love for You. Lord, You guided them to each other, now guide them in this new journey as husband and wife. As they walk down this path, light their way so they may keep their eyes focused on Your will, their hands holding fast to Your truth, their feet firmly planted in Your Word, and their hearts bound together by Your love. This we pray in Your name. Amen.
  
- 8) May these two rings symbolize the spirit of undying love in each of your hearts. Wherever you go, may you always return to one another in your togetherness. May the home you establish be such a place of peace and joy that many will find there a friend. May your love for each other be as a pebble dropped in a pond of water. Like the ripples in the water that cross and recross one another's, may your love touch and retouch all those around you throughout your life together.
  
- 9) Dear Lord, we pray that You will bless this man and this woman as they begin their new journey together. In all the experiences of life, may they always stay close to you and to each other as they share the joys and blessings, as well as the trials and heartaches. Help them to honor and keep the promises made here today. Remind them daily of Your great love for them so they, in turn, may reach out in love to others. Give them such love and devotion that each may be to the other a strength in need, a comfort in sorrow, a counselor in difficulty, and a companion in joy. Amen.
  
- 10) May your marriage be blessed with faith for the future. May your hearts be filled with the happiness of hope. May your lives be enlightened with an everlasting love. May God grant you a new beginning as He opens the door to life's deepest and richest experiences. May the life you build together be a lasting testimony that a second chance is for those who never give up believing in the power of FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE.
  
- 11) May God bless your [this] marriage and family as you [they] create a new home together. A family is a circle of strength and love. With every birth and every union, the circle grows. May every joy shared also add love to the circle, and may every crisis faced together make the circle even stronger. May your [this] family become like a beautiful rainbow as each color of your [their] lives is

carefully blended together with both the showers and the sunshine of God's love.  
Amen

- 12)** (*Irish Blessing*) May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon the fields. May the light of friendship guide your paths together. May the laughter of children grace the halls of your home. May the joy of living for one another trip a smile from your lips, a twinkle from your eye. And when eternity beckons at the end of a life heaped high with love, may the good Lord embrace you with the arms that have nurtured you the whole length of your joy-filled days. May the gracious God hold you both in the palm of His hands. And, today, may the Spirit of Love find a dwelling place in your hearts. Amen.